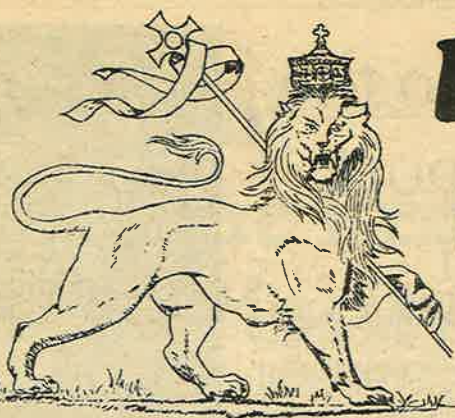


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Negarit The Official Record of the Crown Council of Ethiopia

English-language Edition



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Volume I, No. 1 (New Series)

March 31, 1999 (Western Calendar)

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The War

Ethiopia, 103 Years After Adwa, Must Unify to Survive, Crown Says

The Ethiopian Crown Council this month used the 103rd anniversary of the Victory of Adwa to say that the fight to re-start the social revolution begun by Emperor Haile Selassie I must begin with the sense of Ethiopian unity which has come from the current and tragic war between the Eritrean administration of Isayas Afewerke and the present Ethiopian administration.

The full text of the Adwa anniversary statement, which appears on page eight, pays tribute to the dead and injured of the current war. The Council's urgent call for national unity, however, first came in earlier statements including the following:

WASHINGTON DC, February 8, 1999: — The Ethiopian Monarchy today called on all Ethiopians to put aside their political differences to unify in the face of the new military and insurgent threats to the security of the State. Ethiopia's continued existence as a federal nation-state was now threatened more than at any time since the Italian invasion of 1935, according to Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia.

Prince Ermias authorized the release of the statement from the US Legation of the Ethiopian Crown in Exile before he left Washington DC to represent the Crown at the funeral services and mourning period for His Majesty King Hussein in Amman. Prince Ermias said that Ethiopia was ill-equipped to meet the array of military and separatist threats which now faced it.

"Unfortunately, mistakes were made after the removal of the genocidal Dergue administration in 1991," Prince Ermias said. "The present civil administration in Ethiopia had, after taking power in the name of Tigrean separatism in 1991, divided the

country into ethnic enclaves, making it difficult for the country to successfully resist the current external threats. Now, we must come together again, and we must rally around the traditional symbols of Ethiopian unity, including the Crown, which belongs to all Ethiopia's ethnic and religious communities."

"The Ethiopian people — representing more than 40 ethnic and linguistic groups — must now pull together to resist the military and political threats being posed by Eritrea and certain Sudanese extremist groups," Prince Ermias said. "Our first cause must be the preservation of our State; our economic and cultural survival depend on this."

"It is critical, if we are all to pull together, that the present civil administration in Addis Ababa also commits to the unity of Ethiopia and the reconciliation of its peoples by dramatically improving its record on human rights. This means releasing political prisoners and beginning the process of allowing full political involvement and debate within the society."

"The administration has said that it wishes the support of all Ethiopians, and to achieve this it must now ensure that all Ethiopians are free from oppression."

Prince Ermias is the grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie I, and the nephew of Emperor Amha Selassie I. He was named head of the Crown

Council of Ethiopia in 1993. The Council advises reigning Emperors and, during any interregnum (such as now), the Council actually represents the 3,000-year-old Solomonic Crown of Ethiopia.

No accession to the Throne may be made, according to the Constitution, unless sanctioned by the Council.

"It is inconceivable that Ethiopia, with some 60-million people, cannot resist a military incursion by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) fighters," the Prince said. "However, at the same time, we find radical Islamists in Sudan defying the command of the Prophet Mohammed, who specifically forbade Muslims from attacking Ethiopia. Today, the radicals want to break Ethiopia up into a patchwork of small Muslim states, destroying the balanced and harmonious mix of loyal Ethiopian Muslims and Orthodox Christians who have traditionally made Ethiopia an example of religious tolerance."

Continued on Page Six



Crown Council President His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie: "The survival of a united Ethiopia is at stake."

International Relations

US Congress Call for Crown's Restoration To Stabilize Region

WASHINGTON DC, March 15, 1999: — In a series of moves, the United States Congress has taken up the cause of Ethiopian unity and support for the cause of the Ethiopian Crown. Much of the momentum began in September 1998, when the President of the Crown Council, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, participated in a major briefing to the US Congress on "New Winds in Africa".

This was followed by presentations at the Strategy'98 conference in Washington DC, at which Prince Ermias offered the mediation services of himself and the Crown Council to help end the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

This was followed, on October 14, 1998, by a special briefing for the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on changes in Africa, and particularly in the Horn of Africa. Subsequent discussions led to two major policy statements being made in February 1999 on the floor of the US House of Representatives, calling for support for the Ethiopian Crown, and its restoration.

Mr Saxton's First Statement

WASHINGTON DC, February 11, 1999: — In an important policy statement in the US Congress this week, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare called for the restoration of the

Ethiopian Monarchy as a means of helping stop "the building crisis and slide toward a regional and fratricidal war" in the Horn of Africa.

Congressman Jim Saxton (Republican, New Jersey) (pictured) also called for support for His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, "who has repeatedly exemplified the capable, unifying symbolism which Ethiopia desperately needs". Congressman Saxton is also a member of the National Security Committee. He made his remarks on the floor of the House of Representatives on February 9.

The full text of his statement is as follows:

"Mr Speaker, if permitted to escalate, the mounting crisis in the Horn of Africa will have dire ramifications on the strategic posture

of the United States. Presently, there is no end in sight, other than war, in this Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict. The mediation of Assistant Secretary of State Susan Rice and former National Security Advisor Anthony Lake have so far failed to reverse the slide toward war. Vital interests of the United States, Israel and the West are jeopardized, particularly if the Islamist-supported further break-up of Ethiopia is permitted to occur."

"A unified Ethiopia is vital to

Continued on Page Two

Education

Crown Announces \$1.2m in US College Scholarships

The Ethiopian Crown Council announced this month that it had secured scholarships worth more than US\$1.2-million for Ethiopian students to attend four-year degree courses at a US university. The scholarships, for 15 Ethiopian students, will be disbursed through the charity, The Haile Selassie Fund for Ethiopia's Children, and administered by a special committee of the Haile Selassie Fund in the US and in Addis Ababa.

The patron of the charity, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, said that the scholarships had been donated to the charity by Ambassador International University, in Texas, and provided for full tuition, board and lodging for four years for the 15 students. The Haile Selassie Fund was now working to raise the transportation costs for the 15 students.

Ambassador International University (AIU) campus is set on 2,500 acres of land in Texas, with superb fa-

cilities and a fully-accredited curriculum.

"This is a unique opportunity for Ethiopia," Prince Ermias said. "One of the conditions of the scholarships is that the graduates must return to Ethiopia after winning their degrees, and this will ensure that the wonderful education will directly benefit the community."

"Being able to win these scholarships for Ethiopian students shows that the Crown's commitment to education is beginning to pay off."

◆ See full story, Page Six

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Crown Pays Final Respects to the Late King Hussein and Support for King Abdullah of Jordan

The death of His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal of Jordan on February 7, 1999, saw a major outpouring of grief within the Middle East and around the world. The President of the Crown Council, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie flew immediately from Washington DC to Amman for the mourning, and met there with members of the Jordanian Royal Family and other Jordanian and foreign dignitaries. The Jordanian Government extended full diplomatic courtesies to Prince Ermias during his visit.

WASHINGTON DC, February 8, 1999: —The President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, arrived in Amman, Jordan, today to attend the funeral and mourning period for His Late Majesty King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Apart from representing the Imperial Family, the Crown of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian People at the services, Prince Ermias also brought a message of support to His Majesty King Abdullah, who succeeds King Hussein.

"The Ethiopian and Jordanian

Crowns have, since the founding of the Hashemite State, shared a great mutual respect," Prince Ermias said in a statement prepared before he left Washington. "My late Grandfather, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie, had enormous warmth of feeling for the achievements and personal character of His Late Majesty King Hussein."

"The Jordanian Royal Family also afforded great support to the Ethiopian Imperial Family after the coup and regicide of 1974-75, and it is important that today, as the guard changes in Jordan, we show just how deeply our feelings are for the late King and for his Family."

"His Majesty King Hussein, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, truly respected the Prophet's injunction that the Crown and People of Ethiopia should be regarded as protected friends of Islam, and this paved the way for warm bilateral relations between our peoples and Monarchies," Prince Ermias said.

"We are also aware of the great interest which the new Monarch, His

Majesty King Abdullah, has shown in African affairs. He comes to the Throne as a man of considerable leadership experience and a great knowledge of international affairs, and we have great confidence in his ability to handle the enormous challenges which face him."

"Ethiopia and Jordan both have vital interests in maintaining the freedom and stability of the Red Sea sea lanes, and both are pivotal nations in the overall process of peace, stability and progress for the entire Middle East region. The Ethiopian Crown, although currently in Exile, commits itself to working with His Majesty King Abdullah and his Government, in the furtherance of the regional good."

"The Ethiopian Crown is now preoccupied with attempting to help address the problem of renewed conflict in and around Ethiopia, and we hope to consult with our brother, King Abdullah, about this."

"God Bless the sacred memory of His Late Majesty King Hussein. God Bless and Protect the reign and Person of His Majesty King Abdullah." ★



His Late Majesty King Hussein, with HIM Emperor Haile Selassie I during the King's visit to Addis Ababa. The Emperor always remembered fondly the visit by King Abdullah I, King Hussein's grandfather, to him in England during the 1930s.

Now, For the First Time:

The Symbols and Substance of the Contribution of Ethiopia's Imperial House to the country's, and the world's future strategic needs ...

The Throne of Solomon, which has ruled Ethiopia for some 3,000 years, is also the least-documented in Western terms. Today, the Crown lives in exile, since the 1974 coup and subsequent revolution. But, since the re-establishment of the Crown's constitutionally-authorized governing body, the Imperial Crown Council, by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Amha Selassie I in 1993, the Ethiopian Monarchy has been taking an active role in bringing together the peoples of Ethiopia, including those scattered around the world in the Ethiopian diaspora. Today, the aims of the Crown Council — which has the responsibility for approving the accession to the Throne of the next Emperor — include ensuring that the various peoples of Ethiopia have a focus around which to unify, and that the world's attention is brought to bear on the plight of the Ethiopian underprivileged and those suffering in refugee camps.

With the publication of this new book, **Ethiopia Reaches Her Hand Unto God** Imperial Ethiopia's Unique Symbols, Structure and Role in the Modern World,* there is finally an authoritative and comprehensive guide to the meaning of the important symbols of recognition, set within the framework of the Crown's history.

Ethiopia Reaches Her Hand Unto God has been published by the Defense & Foreign Affairs Group in association with the International Strategic Studies Association. This Group has, for the past 25 years, provided professional publications, books and information services for more than 170 countries around the world, in most cases providing such services at head-of-state, head-of-government, or cabinet/head-of-service level. This new book is authored by Gregory R. Copley, Editor-in-Chief of the Defense & Foreign Affairs Group since its inception, and advisor to a number of governments. Mr Copley was strategic advisor to the late Emperor Amha Selassie. **His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile Selassie**, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, has written the Foreword and is a Patron of this book, which has benefited from significant research and access to hitherto restricted documents.

The book has more than 70 beautiful illustrations and is available as a cloth-bound or paperback edition. It includes some 250 pages of extensively-researched and documented, easy-to-read text, making it not only a valuable reference volume, but a pleasure to read.

* The Phrase "Ethiopia Reaches Her Hand Unto God" is taken from Psalms 68, the Song of David, and is used on a number of Ethiopian medals and crests.



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US Congressional Call For Crown Restoration

Continued from Page 1

the regional security and economic structure. If Ethiopia were to become fragmented, as Sudanese leaders seek, then Israel's economic and military security, as well as its access to the Red Sea would be jeopardized. Instability in Ethiopia would destabilize Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the vital Red Sea-Suez trade link."

The key to the reversal of the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict and the ensuing fragmentation of Ethiopia lies in the rejuvenation of Ethiopia's national identity. Toward this end, the US needs to help Ethiopia find the unifying symbols to strengthen the country and ensure its commitment to moderation. Until 1974, Ethiopia, the region and the US benefited greatly from the statesmanship and friendship of Emperor Haile Selassie. Ethiopia has since declined into ethnic enclaves and divisiveness, and lays open to Eritrean, Sudanese and irredentist attacks."

"The Ethiopian Crown today is a Constitutional Monarchy, ready to return home to provide the inspirational symbolism under which elected day-to-day government can emerge and flourish. Moreover, the stature of the Crown throughout the Horn of Africa makes the Crown uniquely capable of mediating an indigenous solution to the building crisis and slide toward a regional and fratricidal war. The President of the Ethiopian Crown Council and grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie is Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, who has repeatedly exemplified the capable, unifying symbolism which Ethiopia desperately needs. By encouraging Prince Ermias's use of the prestige of the Crown and Ethiopia's traditional elders and institutions to resolve conflict, we can help heal the rifts which are a legacy of decades of civil strife."

"Mr Speaker, I therefore urge Ethiopia's civil government to allow the Crown's return to help unify and stabilize the State, and thereby help preserve Ethiopian, regional and Western security and economic interests."

Mr Saxton's Second Statement

The Ethiopia-Eritrea war escalated still further after Congressman Saxton's first statement on the floor of the House of Representatives on February 9. As a result of this, and the failure of diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis, the Congressional leadership again expressed concern over the situation, resulting in a second major policy state-

ment by Congressman Saxton on February 23.

Congressman Saxton, Chairman of the House of Representatives Task Force on Terrorism & Unconventional Warfare, is also a senior member of the National Security Committee and a former Chairman (and currently Vice-Chairman) of the powerful Joint (House-Senate) Economic Committee (JEC) which is involved in issues including international trade and US aid.

The full text of Congressman Saxton's second statement was as follows:

"Mr Speaker, I spoke on February 9, 1999, to remark that it was essential that we act to help stop the escalation of the crisis in the Horn of Africa, and particularly the Ethiopia-Eritrean war, if the region was not to slide further into chaos. Since then, the anticipated war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has erupted and it keeps escalating. The war has already long-term and dire ramifications for both countries — beyond the impact of the growing numbers of casualties on both sides."

"The war is largely a low-tech and fairly static war of attrition along long miles of rugged and inhospitable terrain. The new offensive just launched by the Ethiopians is yet to alter the overall character of the war. However, both sides have embarked on an intense effort to acquire high quality air power in order to break the deadlock. Both countries not only purchased several late-model combat aircraft and helicopters from states of the former Soviet Union but also engaged a large number of air crews and technicians to fly and maintain them. This effort, that is yet to impact the situation on the front line, is rapidly exhausting the hard currency holdings of these already impoverished states, thus further reducing their chance of economic recovery and development."

"Dire as the situation in the Horn of Africa is, and as much as the casualties are lamentable, it is a valid question to ask: Why should we — the US — care about yet another debilitating war in a remote part of Africa? Fortunately, the war has so far had little impact on the civilian population, there were no massacres, and there is no famine."

Continued on Page Seven

The Horn of Africa

The Restoration of Stability Along the Red Sea is a Global Priority

The global community ignores the ongoing crises in the Horn of Africa at its peril, says the President of the Ethiopian Crown Council, PRINCE ERMIAS SAHLE-SELASSIE HAILE-SELASSIE. The ramifications of instability affect not only the vital Red Sea-Suez sea lanes, but also the stability of the oil-producing Arabian states, Egypt, the Arab-Israeli peace process and the stability of the Eastern Mediterranean. And perhaps there is even more than that at stake.

This report originally appeared in the February edition of *Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy Journal*, which circulates to senior government officials and leaders in 165 countries.

IT MAY BE EASY to see why the European powers and the United States are preoccupied with the conflicts of the Balkans. They are physical squabbles being undertaken in the front parlor of their societies, where tranquility has reigned for 50 years. They are boisterous and dangerous and threaten — right in the face of the world's most powerful media and political bodies — to expand into crises which could destroy or at least harm that peace and prosperity, and therefore the economic engines of the world.

The greater Horn of Africa crisis now underway in "the boiler room" of the global economy is, however, of even more immediate concern to the United States and the West. It is a crisis which is little understood globally, and which — when it is viewed at all — is seen in fragmentary terms and without any understanding of history or broader strategic ramifications. The current Eritrea-Ethiopia war and the radical external forces bent on breaking up Ethiopia are part of the regional human tragedy which affect me and my compatriots personally with the destruction of our very homes and cultures, but there are broader and very real strategic issues which make the situation of immediate concern to the United States and the other major world powers.

There are numerous interlocking pieces to the strategic mosaic, all of which affect the global economy and the relative position of the United States as the world's remaining effective force capable of sustained power brokerage. In broad terms, these include:

- The security of the Red Sea/Suez Canal Sea Lane of Communication (SLOC), which vitally affects East-West trade (not just the oil trade) between Europe and Asia, including particularly Japan and Australia. Within this context, the ability of Israel and Jordan to maintain adequate maritime access to the Red Sea (and therefore world trade) is significant;
- The containment of organized transnational radicalism as a structured antagonist toward the global trading community;
- The destabilization of Egypt, a country which, apart from its vital geopolitical position controlling the Suez Canal/Red Sea SLOC, is the cornerstone of the Arab-Israeli Peace Process;
- The management of the Nile waters, critical to the stability, prosperity and growth of Sudan, Egypt, and now the Palestinian areas, and therefore the Peace Process;
- The containment of the spread of radicalism down into Africa, a process currently occurring from Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) Government, and with the assistance of Iran, but which is also being fostered by, for example, Eritrean support for radical separatist Oromo forces designed to break up Ethiopia still further;
- Ensuring the freedom of Israel and

Jordan to have access to the Red Sea SLOC, vital to their security and prosperity.

There are many subsidiary aspects to all of these points, particularly involving the costs of the human tragedies of wars, repression and ignorant policies on the peoples of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia. But let us dwell on just one question to begin with:

What would happen to the West's position if the Government of Egypt was overthrown and a radical Islamist state created in its place? (And there is a direct causal relationship to such an eventuality as a result of the success of the radical initiatives which have been sponsored out of Sudan and backed by Iran, despite the current partial rapprochement between Egypt and "official" Sudan, as opposed to the "unofficial" Sudanese leaders.)

IN ETHIOPIA, the revolution against the Dergue did not succeed because of victories on the battlefield. We cannot forget that it was the collapse of the Soviet Union which forced the consequent collapse of the extremist Dergue leadership of Ethiopia in 1991. When the West was preoccupied with Iraq and the break-up of the USSR, it was Sudan which fielded two divisions of armor into Ethiopia with the aim of putting its own allies, the Tigré Popular Liberation Front (TPLF) into power in Ethiopia, and its then allies in Eritrea, the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front (EPLF; now People's Front for Democracy and Justice: PFDJ) into office in a newly-created break-away independent state.

As noted earlier, the two communist groups, the TPLF (now EPRDF) and the EPLF, did not come into power because of their great successes on the battlefield. They achieved power because of the collapse of the USSR and their timely support by a country which has as its stated aim the radicalization of the region. Sudan intends, according to the NIF's spiritual and philosophical leader, Dr Hassan al-Turabi, to break up Ethiopia into a patchwork of Islamist states, and to

Dr al-Turabi and his colleagues did not assist in the overthrow of the Dergue and the break-up of Ethiopia in 1991 to help the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples, but to create an ongoing program of the export of radicalism which has already extended throughout Africa, even to South Africa.

overthrow Egypt and bring it under radical Islamist leadership. Ethiopia is currently the only country in the Middle East to have an harmonious balance of Muslims and Orthodox Christians.

Dr al-Turabi and his colleagues did not assist in the overthrow of the Dergue and the break-up of Ethiopia in 1991 to help the Ethio-



Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie with the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Gen. Charles C. Krulak and Mrs Krulak, in Washington DC recently.

pian and Eritrean peoples, but to create an ongoing program of the export of radicalism which has already extended throughout Africa, even to South Africa.

If Egypt's moderate Government was overthrown and replaced by radicals, it is likely that the peace accords with Israel would be disavowed, and Saudi Arabia would face increasing radical pressure without the back-up of the major regional power, and the US would lack the Egyptian facilities (which it had for the 1990-91 Gulf Crisis) to support Saudi Arabia. The Red Sea-Suez SLOC — which was closed down completely in 1974 by the dropping of four sea-mines from the Libyan minelayer *Ghat* — would become, once again, a "no go" area for world shipping. Ethiopia and Eritrea would become further isolated, and radicalization would spread more easily down through Kenya and into East and Central Africa.

In other words, the hope of an African economic turnaround would be further jeopardized. There would be a trend toward

the West and the People's Republic of China (PRC). There is little doubt but that the PRC has already been of significant strategic assistance to Iran, and this assists Iranian support of Sudan and the overall export of radicalism. The fact that the PRC has a treaty alliance with North Korea (DPRK) adds to the texture and substance of an emerging new radical, or at least anti-Western, bloc. It would be easy to sensationalize this as a coherent, planned development of a new bipolar world. Clearly, it is not: it is a situation which is evolving organically.

The world is by default drifting into new alignments by the coincidence of activities.

My Grandfather, Emperor Haile Selassie I, warned the League of Nations in 1935 of the emergence of

require some 5.5bcm/year) and is considering projects which would feed Nile water to the Palestinian lands.

The Nile question, then, provokes great concern. But it would provoke still more concern if Ethiopia was to be further dismembered and those patchwork new states which would be created were radicalized, as Dr al-Turabi and his allies wish. There would be little hope of achieving a balanced water-useage consensus then.

Threats to the Red Sea SLOCs jeopardize half of Egypt's foreign exchange earnings. Threats to its tourist trade threaten the other half of its foreign exchange earnings. Threats to constrain the amount of Nile waters which Egypt can use jeopardize Egypt's internal prosperity, growth and stability.

the then-newly-emerging tyranny of fascism. He received too little support, too late. Ethiopia was invaded by Italy in part because Britain and France at first indicated their disinterest in Italy's intentions. The result was that once Italy had invaded, it took years of hard fighting to remove them. Ethiopia was rescued only as a result of World War II, which galvanized the international effort against fascism and nazism, and gave support to the Ethiopian resistance which had fought the Italian invasion since 1935.

A new process of strategic imbalance is occurring again today, and once again the warning signals come from the broader Middle East, an area which includes not only Arabia and the Levant, but also the Horn of Africa, as well as North Africa, and the Northern Tier.

The restoration of unity, peace and economic growth in Ethiopia, and the suppression of radicalization exported from the Sudan (and aided currently for tactical reasons in some aspects from Eritrea) will go a long way to ensuring peace for Egypt. The stability of Egypt is of vital concern to us all, but it cannot occur if the upstream Nile countries of Sudan and Ethiopia are in chaos or are radicalized.

It is difficult for observers outside the region to comprehend the absolute importance of the Nile to this equation. Egypt has said that, short of invasion by a foreign power, only interference with the flow of Nile waters would be sufficient to provoke the nation into a new war. Officials from the current Ethiopian civil Administration have already called for a reconsideration of the 1959 Agreement for the Full Utilization of the Nile Waters, which allocates the entire flow of the river to the Sudan and Egypt.

Ethiopia is already beginning work on a strategy to develop a range of micro-dams which could reduce downstream flow of the Nile by some seven-billion cubic meters (bcm) a year. Egypt already uses all of its 55bcm/year quota and is working on new irrigation schemes for the Sinai desert (which would

That is not to say that Ethiopia has no rights of its own to the Nile waters. Clearly, as the source of the Blue Nile, it has substantial rights. But it is essential that total regional cooperation is achieved to find ways to more efficiently use the Nile waters, so that all the riparian states can meet their needs and still grow their economies.

ETHIOPIA, UNTIL 1974, played a key rôle in ensuring free access to the Red Sea SLOCs by the international community. Today, that rôle is constrained because of the war which Eritrea began against Ethiopia and the fact that — despite some 3,000 years of harmonious marriage of Ethiopian and Eritrean interests — Ethiopia currently is denied its traditional access to the Red Sea. Because of the hostility from Eritrea, Ethiopia is forced to expand its relations with Djibouti, upgrading the road and rail communications links so that Ethiopian exports can reach the international market.

But the war which Eritrea began with Ethiopia in 1998 may well see Eritrean elements spurred in their rebellion against the Government of President Isayas Afewerke. Already, the Afar peoples — a largely Muslim group on the Djibouti border, extending into Eritrea and Ethiopia — have begun to rebel, and their territory, including the port city of Assab, could well opt out of the Eritrean state and elect to throw its lot, once more, in with Ethiopia. Certainly that appears to be the direction which *Bitwoded Ali Mera*, Sultan of the Afars, is taking.

So the current war between Ethiopia and Eritrea may restore Ethiopia's access to the sea. Already, it has forced a new alliance with Djibouti which effectively restores Ethiopia's sea access. In one way or another, Ethiopia will have access to, and influence over, the strategic control of the Red Sea.

Continued on Page Six



ነገሪት Negarit

The Official Record of the Crown Council of Ethiopia

The Voice of the Solomonic Crown

English-Language Edition Mailing Address:
Negarit Inc., PO Box 20863, Alexandria, Virginia 22320, USA.
Fax +1 (703) 684-7476. E-mail: CrownCncl@aol.com.

On the Meaning of Negarit

NEGARIT HAS ALWAYS been the official Court Circular of the Crown of Ethiopia: the source of record for the Solomonic Crown. That the Crown is currently in exile does not minimize the fact that the Crown continues to serve Ethiopia, and will always be part of the life of the Ethiopian peoples, as it has been for the past 3,000 years. *Negarit* derives its name from the ancient practice by which criers, preceded by drums, would go throughout the cities and towns proclaiming the news and pronouncements of the Imperial Court, and rallying the people to action. In later years, under the Constitutional Monarchy period of HIM Emperor Haile Selassie I, *Negarit*, under the Minister of the Pen, was a more formal record of official positions, promotions and changes within the Civil Service and Armed Forces, and a place in which the achievements of Ethiopians could be broadcast. On the facing page, Ethiopians will be pleased to read, in Amharic, a scholarly description of the origins of the name.

TODAY, THE Crown is in Exile and in an Interregnum, and the Crown and Throne of Solomon are represented by the Constitutionally-appointed Imperial Crown Council of Ethiopia (የኢትዮጵያ ዘወድ ምክር ቤት). The current Crown Council was re-convened by HIM Emperor Amha Selassie I in 1993, and His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, the Grandson of HIM Emperor Haile Selassie I, was named President of the Council. HIH Prince Bekere Fikre-Selassie was named *Enderassé*, or Viceroy. The Crown Council moved, upon the death in January 1997 of HIM Emperor Amha Selassie, to ensure that the Crown would be revitalized. And since that time, the Crown has indeed acted to help re-unite the Ethiopian Peoples as they face challenges on all fronts.

PRINCIPAL AMONG these challenges facing Ethiopia today is the multi-faceted security threat posed by the Eritrean military invasion of our sovereign territory, coupled with the now-open declaration by the effective powers in Sudan that dismemberment of Ethiopia is an avowed objective. These military threats come at a time when Ethiopia is still weak following more than two decades of civil war and civil unrest. Democracy — which was beginning to flourish in Ethiopia under Emperor Haile Selassie — is still not restored to our land, and nor are our peoples brought back together after years of bitter internecine warfare in which the different nations of our Empire were forced to fight one another.

THE CROWN OF ETHIOPIA is the Crown of all Ethiopians, and a uniting symbol of our Empire of Peoples, whatever their language, whatever their religion, whatever their ethnicity. Ethiopia's Crown represents the oldest unbroken chain of civilization in the World; it is a treasure beyond price. The Crown is the tool of the Peoples of Ethiopia in their quest to build a better, united society, an example not only to Africa, but to all societies. ★

The Crown Council wishes all of its Jewish readers a Happy Passover.

Battle of Adwa Remains a Military Model for Students of Strategy

THE BATTLE OF ADWA, in which Ethiopian forces under Emperor Menelik II united to defeat an invading force of Italian troops 103 years ago this month, was one of the most significant turning points in the history of modern Africa. It occurred, in 1896, when the "colonial era" was well advanced on the African continent, and it served notice that Africa was not just there "for the taking" by European powers. More than this, it marked the entry of Ethiopia into the modern community of nations: Menelik's victory over the Italians caused the other major European states, and Italy itself, to recognize Ethiopia as a sovereign, independent state in the context of modern statecraft.

The actual battle which took place on March 1 and 2, 1896, at Adwa, the principal market town of the North of Ethiopia, had been precipitated by the great rush of the European powers to colonize Africa. Italy and Germany had lagged behind other European powers — most notably France and Britain — in seizing large parcels of the Continent to colonize. Thus, the Conference of Berlin was convened in 1884-85 to "divide up" the remainder of Africa among the other European powers, anxious to obtain their own African colonies to satisfy the urge for imperial expansion and economic gain. Italy was "awarded" Ethiopia; all that remained was for Italian troops to take possession.

Significantly, until this time, Ethiopia had been left alone by the European powers. Its coastal littoral was well-known to traders, but the heartland in the highlands was peopled by nations notoriously unwilling to accept and embrace external contact and influence. But the Ethiopian nations had been known in the past to be fractious and divided, and from all accounts, Italy's leaders expected a rapid conquest of the individual national leaders. Britain had, in 1868, waged a successful war against Emperor Tewodros II (Theodore), leading to his death. The Italians, however, failed to recognize that Emperor Menelik II had re-shaped Ethiopia since he came to power in 1889, uniting its various kings and leaders, and creating in the process a substantial army, outnumbering and outperforming the invading Italian professional army of 17,000 to 20,000 men.

The modern parallel to the situation came with the Israeli-Egyptian confrontations of 1967 and 1973. The Israeli victory in 1967 (the Six-Day War) left Israel complacent and confident in the superiority of its forces over those of the Egyptians. Apart from this, the Israelis had put in place the Bar-Lev Line of fortifications, which were expected to hold against any conceivable Egyptian attack. But the Israeli leadership and intelligence services failed to note that the crushing defeat inflicted on Egypt so quickly in 1967 had brought about a dramatic transformation in the psyche of the Egyptian leadership. President Anwar as-Sadat totally transformed the education, training, equipment and doctrine of the Egyptian Armed Forces, without Soviet help (Soviet advisors had been expelled in 1972), within six years of the defeat. When Egypt initiated the October 1973 war, the transformed situation took Israel by complete surprise. Despite the massive logistical re-supply of Israel by the US — which effectively saved Israel from complete humiliation — and the recovery of initiative by Israeli commanders, Egypt achieved its strategic objectives. The Suez Canal was re-opened, the Sinai returned to Egypt, and peace achieved.

That the Battle of Adwa is still fresh in the minds of Ethiopians became apparent when, on July 5, 1998, Ethiopian volunteers were cheered off to battle against invading Eritrean forces. As a Reuters report noted: "Residents from the city's [Addis Ababa's] 265 neighborhood associations danced and sang songs recalling the Battle of Adwa where Ethiopia defeated the invading Italian army in 1896."

With even less intelligence on which to base its actions, Italy could only draw on the British victory at Magdala and the commonly held European belief that no African forces were a match for disciplined and well-equipped European military formations.

But much had happened since Magdala, and Emperor Tewodros' defeat. Indeed, the British victory had even at that time obscured from General Robert Napier and his officers the sophistication of the system which they had just defeated. Victory often breeds contempt in the victors against the vanquished; at best it breeds an unwillingness to learn from the enemy so recently crushed.

Apart from the overall political and social aspects of Ethiopia in 1868, Emperor Tewodros had based his defense against the British on the *Rist-Gult* system of recruitment, military structure and logistical support. This logistical structure was entrenched in what was commonly called *Mesfint Hagr*: namely, the present day highlands of Eritrea, the region of Tigré, Gonder, Gojjam, and Wello. The rest of Ethiopia was under a second type of resource system known as the *Geber Madriya* system, which formed the basis of the fiscal and military organization of Emperor Menelik's Government.

The *Rist-Gult* system was used not only at Magdala, but also against Egypt at Gundet (1875), Gura (1876), Italy at Dogali (1887), and against the Mahdist Sudan at Metemma (1889). [It was in this battle, at Metemma, that Emperor Yohannes IV had died.] The Battle of Adwa was based mostly on the *Geber Madriya* system. Ethiopian historian Tsegaye Tegenu noted that in all of these large battles, the background composition of the troops were similar. "All were drawn from the various ethnic groups and constituted the class of military nobility, regional aristocracy and peasantry. However, there was a difference in the manner of administration and the use of human and material resources [at Adwa]. The troops of Adwa were recruited basically through the *Geber Madriya* system, which had qualitatively different methods of remuneration, revenue administration and provisioning, which was in harmony with the form of economy."

One of the major failings of the Italian planners of Savoyard Italy was that they failed to notice the fundamental change in Ethiopia under Menelik. Emperor Menelik II had transformed the administration of the economy and had greatly improved the tax base of the country. This in turn improved dramatically his capability to raise armies and to equip them.

The complex tax base meant that the battles fought during the era of the *Rist-Gult* system were precariously-managed affairs. As Tsegaye Tegenu noted: "It is not difficult to see the desperate effort of the kings to overcome the fiscal limits of the system to fight against external aggression." Menelik managed this transformation to a new economic base in such a way as to prepare Ethiopia for the most decisive battle.

Emperor Menelik (shown here) took immediate steps upon hearing of Italy's plans to annex Ethiopia. He called, on September 17, 1895, for national mobilization, and within two months more than 100,000 troops were assembled in the specified areas: Addis Ababa, Were Illu, Ashenge, and Mekele. About two-thirds of these troops were raised through the *Geber Madriya* system. The Emperor himself mobilized some 35,000 troops, commanded by his court officials. His Queen — Empress Tayitu — also mobilized her own force of some 6,000 men.

The Imperial Army also included troops raised by governors-general, such as Ras Makonnen (the father of Ras Tafari Makonnen, later Emperor Haile Selassie I) who commanded some 12,000 troops. *Dejazmatch* Tesema commanded some 5,000 soldiers; Ras Welde Giorgis about 5,000; Ras Bitwoded Mengesha Atakim, about 6,000; and so on. Troops of the regional princes numbered about 35,000, and of these, Ras Mengesha of Tigré commanded about 8,000; King (Negus) Tekle Haimanot of Gojjam about 6,000; Ras Welle of Begemdar another 6,000; *Wagshum* Guangul of Wag a further 5,000.

In all, Emperor Menelik was able to mobilize some 70,000 to 100,000 modern rifles for Adwa. By 1895, he had obtained at least 5,000,000 cartridges. He had spent more than \$1-million (in 1895 currency), a sum which would have been unthinkable to Emperor Tewodros, or even Emperor Yohannes IV. And this sum did not even include the artillery which Emperor Menelik had secured. This component of the force — the Corps of Gunpowder and Shell — was commanded by a *Bejirond*: a

treasurer in charge of finance and the storehouse of the Palace, and by the *Liq Mekuas*, who was also commander of the Royal cavalry.

The logistical tail of the Adwa campaign, from the Ethiopian side, was no less impressive than the logistical effort put forth to carry and support the invading force of some 17,000 Italian troops from Europe, supplemented by local recruits. Italy had already occupied the highlands of Eritrea, and therefore was well-placed with forward support for the battle. Moreover, it was aware of the problems which had been challenging Ethiopia and Menelik. Famine and internecine squabbling were preoccupying the country, and Menelik was initially unable to mobilize forces to resist Italy's occupation of Eritrea and its expansion into the hinterland. An emboldened Italy pushed further into Ethiopia, crossing the Mereb River and chasing out Ras Mengesha, the ruler of Tigré; full control of the region seemed at hand, and Italian forces settled in for a permanent occupation.

Italian General Baraterie, commander of the occupation force and governor of the Eritrean colony, sought and obtained an additional budget of four-million *lira* and 10,000 more trained troops. But Gen. Baraterie seemed unaware of Menelik's main strategic imperative, which was to wait for the opportunity to confront — with infantry and artillery — the main Italian force and its supplies, rather than engage in piecemeal battles at the enemy's choosing. To this end, Menelik focused his efforts on building a large coalition force, capable of the mission. This entailed a process of diplomacy with the regional princes and rulers, not only to secure the participation of their individual armies, but also to be able to access their logistical support base.

The strategy and tactics employed by Menelik were not only due to the Emperor's diplomatic and military skills, but also to the unique doctrines developed by Ethiopia literally over several millennia. These doctrines were also created in virtual isolation from the military lessons learned by the rest of the world, and reflected Ethiopia's own history and topography. In this sense, then, the Ethiopian forces under Menelik did not conform to the expectations of the Italians. As a result, the Battle of Adwa was to become a significant case study for military schools for the next century, and almost certainly well into the future.

It would not be fair to say that the Italians had failed to study Ethiopian military history. But by basing their perspectives on the very different strategies of the *Rist-Gult* system used by Tewodros and Yohannes, they could not comprehend the vastly superior mobilization capabilities of Menelik's *Geber Madriya* system. Thus, when the Italians expected to meet a force of about 30,000 Ethiopians, they met 100,000.

Having said that, the *Geber Madriya* system was based on a form of recompense to the soldiers which involved grants of land and the payment of food, drink and honey, etc., to the soldiers from tenants working the land. In other words, it was a non-monetarized system which provided for the welfare of the troops.

It was clearly not a system which could be projected far beyond the supporting geography. The Battle of Adwa came in such a way that — because Emperor Menelik had lured the Italian main force into his own territory — it fitted perfectly the criteria of the *Geber Madriya* system. But Menelik, after the stupendous victory at Adwa, could not use the same structure to pursue the Italians into Eritrea and throw them entirely into the Red Sea.

The result was that, although Ethiopia was, as an Empire, saved by the Battle of Adwa, the Italians remained lodged on the periphery. More importantly, the concept of seizing Ethiopia remained in the Italian psyche, so that when fascist Italy once more dreamed of empire in the 1930s, it again embarked upon an attempt to conquer Ethiopia. And, in that campaign, even though they met with initial success, it was once again an overreaching of Italian resources and Italy was thrown not only out of the Ethiopian heartland but also out of Eritrea. Thus, less than 50 years after Adwa, Eritrea, too, was restored to Ethiopia. ★



Letters to the Editor

Negarit welcomes letters to the Editor on all topics of importance to the Ethiopian people. They should ideally be no more than 250 words in length, and may be mailed to: The Editor, Negarit, PO Box 20863, Alexandria, Virginia 22320, USA, or faxed to +1 (703) 684-7476, or emailed to CrownCncl@aol.com. Letters are assumed to be for publication unless otherwise specified.



Heritage

Crown Backs Urgent Campaign to Save Addis's Holy Trinity

ONE OF Ethiopia's great cultural and religious treasures of the modern era, the Holy Trinity Cathedral, in Addis Ababa, is in urgent need of repairs and restoration. The Cathedral — which houses the tombs of Her Imperial Majesty Empress Menen, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Amha Selassie I, Their Imperial Highnesses the Duke of Harar and Prince Sahle Selassie — is home to the Battle Standards of the Imperial Ethiopian forces, including the units which fought in the Korean War.

The Ethiopian Crown Council has taken up the cause of trying to raise funds for the urgent repairs, which are estimated to cost some 2.4-million birr (appr. \$330,000), and is urging readers to send donations to the Haile Selassie Fund for Ethiopia's Children, in the US, along with the form on page eight, earmarking the funds to be forwarded to the Cathedral authorities' restoration fund. An address in Addis will be advised soon where donations can be made. Meanwhile, readers in Ethiopia should send their donations directly to the Cathedral, specifying that the money is to go to the restoration program.

The cornerstone for the great cathedral was laid by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I in December 1931 (Western calendar; 1924 EC), only a year after his coronation as Emperor, and well before the Italian invasion. His Holiness the Patriarch, Abuna John the 18th of Alexandria, blessed the occasion.

Work on construction was suspended with the Italian invasion of 1935 (1928 EC), but resumed in 1941 with the liberation of the nation. The cathedral, which was inaugurated in 1944, was named "Holy Trinity" and dedicated to the memory of the patriots who died defending Ethiopia. The Emperor had taken a personal and constant rôle in overseeing the construction of Holy Trinity.

The cathedral has since witnessed the consecration of a number of archbishops and the ordination of many priests and deacons of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Emperor Haile Selassie used the cathedral on public holidays, and members of the Imperial Family frequented it. Several of them were later laid to rest there.

The cathedral was enlarged in 1946, the second of three phases in the construction of what is now the completed Holy Trinity. The third and final phase was underway in 1964, adding an additional 500sq.m. of space. Today, this, the most modern and largest church in Ethiopia, is used for the major religious ceremonies of the country.

One of the great murals in Holy Trinity depicts Emperor Haile Selassie pleading for the liberation of Ethiopia at the League of Nations. Another mural, which takes a full wall, depicts "the progressive march of four modern Ethiopian emperors, Téwodros, Yohannes, Menelik II, and Haile Selassie I", under the watchful gaze of the mounted figure of Saint George, Ethiopia's patron saint.

A bronze plaque in the cathedral commemorates the collaboration of the British and Ethiopian armies in the liberation of the nation, and the battle ensigns of Ethiopian regiments, garlanded with their battle honors, hang from staffs in the walls.

Superb examples of silver and wooden processional and hand crosses in the traditional Ethiopian style, along with an extensive library, sacred vessels, pyxes and ceremonial umbrellas are among the treasures in Holy Trinity, while outside are the graves of many who died defending the country.

The beautiful cathedral now, however, is facing problems. Leakage in various parts of the roof is worsening, causing serious damage to the interior, including damage to some precious religious paintings and to the windows.

A meeting was called on May 27, 1995, to take preliminary steps to address the problem. The present Patriarch, His Holiness Abuna Paulos, was present and called for the



faithful to fulfill their religious obligations by contributing their share to the restoration of the cathedral. A Fundraising Committee of 15 people was established to work within the country and abroad on the project.

An international contractor, EMC (Elmecon plc.), of the UK, was called in to make a complete study of the problems, and has filed a full report to the cathedral committee. The cost for repairing the roof, the most urgent part of the program, is estimated at 975,687 birr (\$137,000 appr.).

"Holy Trinity represents the unity of modern Ethiopia," the President of the Crown Council, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie said. "The cathedral is an important physical and spiritual home of the Nation. My Father, Grandmother and Uncles are entombed there, but so, too, are the bodies and spirits of those who have lived and died for the integrity and unity of our country."

"We must now give willingly to preserve it." ★

The Crown Council will promote the cause of the restoration of Holy Trinity on its new website, and will continue to give readers updates on the project in the pages of Negarit. As well, any readers with interesting stories or pictures of the Cathedral's history are invited to send them to Negarit.



ነጋሪት Negarit

The Official Record of the Crown Council of Ethiopia

The Voice of the Solomonic Crown

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ነጋሪት ተገላጭ። ሥራዊቱም ተመሙ። ይህ ጋዜጣ ነጋሪት ተብሎ የተሠየመበት ኢትዮጵያዊ ሥርዓትን ታሪክን ልማድና ባሕልን ተመርኩህ ነው። ነጋሪት የሚለውን ቃል አመጣጥና አወጣጥ እንደሚከተለው እንመልከት። ነገረ ነገረ። መንገር መሰበከ ማስተማር ማውራት ማብራር ነገርን ሳያቋርጡ እንደ ወሀና እንደ ዝናም ማፍሰስ ማውረድ ማጥፋትና ጋሳብን ምሥጢርን በቃል መግለጥ በንባብ ማስገጥ መልክ እያወጡ ምሳሌ እየሠሩ ማነጥና መቅረቡ። ነጋሪት የሚያናግር የሚያወራ የሚጮህ የሚተም የሚያነብ ነበረ ወሬ ነጋሪ ላዋጅ ነጋሪ ባለነጋሪት ወዘተ...

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ይህ አሠራር የቆየና የነበረ በዘመኑ የላዋጅ መንገሪያና ማስታወቂያ መሣሪያ ነበር። ይህንኑ ልማድ ሲተካ የመንገሥትን ላዋጅ ሲሕዝብ ለማስተላለፍ ከድምፅ መሣሪያ ማለት ከነጋሪት ጋር ምንም ከሰነድ ታች ወጥቶ መልክነትን ሳያቋርጥ በሥነ ጽሑፍ ለማስተላለፍ በሚጀመርበት በመነ ደግሞ የገገሠ ነገሥቱን ላዋጅ የሚነግሩበት ጽሑፍ ነጋሪት ጋዜጣ ተብሎ በሰው መጠራትን ቀጥሏል። ነጋሪት ጋዜጣ ሲባል የመንግሥት ሕግ የተደነገገበት የጸደቀበት ልዩ የድንጋጌ ጋዜጣ መሆኑን እንረዳለን።

በላዊቱም አባቶቻችን ያቆዩንን ልማድ ባሕል ወግና ማዕርግ ጠብቆ መገኘቱ ያንድ ሕዝብ ምንነት መታወቂያና መለያው የነበረውን አሻሽሎና ጠብቆ ማቆየት ማስተላለፍ አንዱ ትውልድ ወደ ሌላው የሚጠበቅ አደራ በመሆኑ ይህንም ጋዜጣ ታሪካዊም ተልዕኮ በላለው ያን በሕዝብ ልቡና የሚወጣውንና የሚወርደውን የኢትዮጵያን አንድነት ሠላም ፍቅር ብሔራዊ ሉላዊነት ያገርን ከብርና ሞገስን ለሚመኘውና ለማየት ለሚጓጓው ሕዝብ የምሥራች ለመንገር ለማብራር ይህ ጋዜጣ ታሪካዊ ለውጥ መርጦ ይቆያል። እነሆ የነጋሪቱ ገሠማ ድምፅ ተሠማ።

እንግዲህ ይህ ጋዜጣ ነጋሪት ተብሎ ተሠይሟል። እንደ አባቶቻችን አበባል ስሙ ሥራውን ይገልጻል። እንዲህ ነው ስምን መልአክ ያወጣዋል። በኢትዮጵያ ላይ ያ ሁሉ መከራ ደርሶ ሕዝቡ ፈልሶ የወገን ያም በየመንገዱና በየትዩው ፈሰሶ ያን ሁሉ ታግሦ ሕዝቡ ከዚህ ደርሷል። መከራውን በደስታ ጥንቀቄን በሰልጸታ ትክክለውን በሆኑ የሚያሠማበት ወቅት ጊዜ እነሆ ነጋሪቱ ተገላጭ። ይህ ድምፅ የሠላም የፍቅር የወንድማማችነት ያንድ ሕዝብ መቀሪያና መሰብሰቢያ ድምፅ ነው። ኢትዮጵያዊ ጠደምነቱን ነብር ዝንጉርጉርነቱን አይለውጥም። የተባለለት ሕዝብ አንድነቱን ማግኘቱን ሉላዊነቱን አይተውም። ወደ ታወቀው ወደ ጥንት ታሪኩ እንዲመለስ እነሆ ነጋሪት ተገላጭለች። ለኢትዮጵያውያን ጆር ለመድረስ የምሥራች ይዞ እየተመመ ይገኛል። መከራው በዘር መለያየቱ ጭቅጭቅ ሁሉ ያብቃል። ለባለጽግናው ለሠላሙ ለአንድነቱ ለኢትዮጵያዊነቱ ላይ ነገላናችን ይንቃ። ነጋሪት ለአንድነት ነጋሪት ለሰላምነት ነጋሪት ለኢትዮጵያዊነት ተገላጭ። ጆር ያለው ይሰማ። የሰማ ያሰማ ይሰማ።

International Distribution of Negarit: A Call to Wholesalers

Negarit is seeking distributors and retailers to sell the newspaper in all countries and inside Ethiopia. A generous commission arrangement is being offered. Interested parties should contact:
The Circulation Manager, Negarit, PO Box 20863, Alexandria, Virginia 22320, USA;
Or fax to +1 (703) 684-7476; or email to CrownCncl@aol.com.

The Crown Council wishes all of its Christian readers a Happy Easter

The Restoration of Stability Along the Red Sea is a Global Priority

Continued from Page Three

EVEN THE Eritrean Labour Party, which has been suppressed by the Isayas Government, said on February 20, 1999: "We are open to Ethiopia's legitimate right of access to the sea. ...We cannot think or dream of denying the other people of Ethiopia their natural right of ownership and access of the Red Sea. We cannot either deny the people of Eritrea the right to live in harmony and peace with the other peoples of Ethiopia with whom they share the same blood, religion, alphabet and language, culture and custom as well as an interwoven economic and political life from time immemorial."

The longer the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea continues, the more damage it does to the infrastructures, economies and social adjustment of all the peoples of the region. Furthermore, while Ethiopia and Eritrea sap their energies in a futile conflict, other factors are at work which could lead to a further deterioration in Ethiopia's unity, and in the overall stability of the region.

We know from history that any conflict in a region affects more than the directly warring parties. In the case of the current crisis in the Horn of Africa, we see the security of the Red Sea jeopardized; we see a failure to resolve the ongoing crisis in Somalia because there can be no focus on this problem while Ethiopia and Eritrea are at war.

We have seen, thus far, a failure of all international efforts aimed at bringing about a mediated end to the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. As a result, the prestige of the United States has suffered enormously in Africa, as has the prestige of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) which is based in Addis Ababa.

It is emerging that there are Ethiopians and Eritreans who actively wish for peace and a new harmony between our peoples. What we are witnessing today is, in one part, a legacy of the colonial era, during which Italy worked to divide Eritrea away from its co-religionists and historical partners further inland. We are also witnessing a legacy of the Cold War, because the parties now in power in Addis Ababa and Asmara are there as a result firstly of the Soviet support for the Dergue, followed by the collapse of the Dergue when the Soviet Union collapsed.

What was occurring in Ethiopia before the Soviet-backed Dergue seized power was the peaceful and successful evolution of a traditional state, steeped in customs and traditions dating back 3,000 and more years, into a Constitutional Monarchy, with what was becoming an increasingly elected, democratic Parliament, backed by a newly-created free press. Ethiopians had freedom of worship and assembly. We saw the wellbeing of the society modernize from 1930 to 1974 at a pace which was dizzying. And the coup occurred in 1974 not because of the failure of Ethiopia to progress under Emperor Haile Selassie, but because many entrenched elements in the bureaucracy and society refused to advance at the pace which the Emperor wished. If there was a revolutionary in Ethiopia, then it was my Grandfather, Emperor Haile Selassie.

Today, these enormous gains in civilization have been set back. What we see now is far less democracy and opportunity and prosperity than was being created under the Constitutional Monarchy of Haile Selassie.

What we are witnessing today is a society led by people who arrived on the scene by accident;

who are mired in divisive, petty squabbling. The result is that the region is divided and at risk. And the risk is one shared by the entire world: a further breakdown in the region could lead to the collapse of the pivotal powers, and a total disruption of the trade routes and the Middle Eastern oil trade. But worse than this, by not seeing the Ethiopia-Eritrea dispute in the broader context — and acting accordingly — the world may be condemning the peoples of the region, including those of Egypt and North Africa, Arabia and the Northern Tier, to many more years of despair. ★

Legal Status for Haile Selassie Mem. Foundation

The Crown Council has learned that the Haile Selassie Memorial Foundation has won legal status and recognition in Ethiopia. The purpose of the Foundation is to create a special library and museum honoring the achievements of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I, and to provide educational scholarships for Ethiopian students at home and abroad. ★

Education

Crown Wins Major US College Scholarship Program for Ethiopians

THE President of Ambassador International University, Monsignor William A. Kerr, PhD, in late February informed His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, that the Texas-based Ambassador International University will provide 15 full scholarships to students from Ethiopia for a four-year program of undergraduate study.

The scholarships will be awarded through the Haile Selassie Fund for Ethiopia's Children, the US-based charity of which Prince Ermias is the Patron.

The scholarships have a current value of some US\$1.2-million. University President Kerr expressed the hope that the scholarships would make a difference in Ethiopia: "We believe that education is the best investment for a better global future for all of us. Thus, I am especially pleased to be able to offer these scholarships to help support Ethiopia's recovery from decades of civil war and unrest, and to help shape a brighter future for Ethiopia."

The Haile Selassie Fund for Ethiopia's Children, apart from administering the selection of the students to receive the scholarships, will also raise funds for the air fares of the recipients to and from the United States. The Imperial Society of St. George of Lalibela, a non-profit charitable foundation of which Prince Ermias is also Patron, will also assist in fundraising and support for the students.

Prince Ermias, commenting on the grant, said: "We are enormously grateful to Ambassador International University for the gift of these extremely valuable scholarships. Ethiopia today needs every educated citizen to be able to work together for the unity and prosperity of our country, and the conditions under which the scholarships will be awarded include the stipulation that the recipient return to Ethiopia after graduating from the course."

Prince Ermias continued: "These scholarships will not only give great leadership training to Ethiopians, they will also impart practical skills in areas of vital need to the Ethiopian community: agricultural management, engineering, water resource manage-

ment, computer sciences, communications and business."

President Kerr noted: "By ensuring that the graduates return home after completion of their studies, we will be building a complementary network of national, regional and global leaders for the next century."

Ambassador International University is a new university with a unique approach to education for the 21st Century. Its mission is to offer women and men from all parts of the globe, including war-ravaged areas and developing nations, opportunities for personal and professional development through education.

At Ambassador International University, groups of students from nations around the world will study together at a beautiful, fully-equipped 2,500 acre campus. "We will have a cross-fertilization of ideas and cultures, with students from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States."

"We are delighted that Ethiopian students will be an important part of our first class, beginning in August this year," President Kerr said. ★



Ethiopian and Rwandan Crowns Meet at Strategy Conference

RWANDA'S King Kigeli V, the *Umwami w'u Rwanda*, and current head of a dynasty which goes back in an unbroken line to the year 1081 (Western calendar), is seen here (right of picture) meeting with Ethiopian Crown Council President Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie at the *Strategy'98* dinner in Washington DC on October 6, 1998.

Both Prince Ermias and His Majesty are wearing decorations awarded by the International Strategic Studies Association (ISSA), a worldwide non-governmental organization (NGO) for senior government officials involved in national policy and strategic affairs. King Kigeli was awarded the ISSA *Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Contributions to Strategic Progress for Humanitarian Achievements* for 1998. This recognized the King's work to warn the world of the impending genocides in Rwanda over the past decade.

Prince Ermias is wearing the ISSA medal he was awarded in 1997 for his work in attempting to draw international attention to the plight of Ethiopian refugees, who are often in difficult conditions in remote parts of the world. Prince Ermias has traveled extensively throughout Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East, and has met with dozens of heads-of-state, heads-of-government and senior government officials during the past three years to raise the awareness of the needs of the Ethiopian refugee communities in their midst.

Prince Ermias is also wearing the *Battle of Adwa Centenary Medal*, issued by the Crown Council to recognize the great victory by the forces of his kinsman, Emperor Menelik II, over the Italians in 1896. The medal is being re-struck (see story, page seven) to recognize Ethiopian patriots and supporters of Ethiopia for the 103rd anniversary of the battle this month.

Both Prince Ermias and King Kigeli spoke at the big *Strategy'98* conference, the *Global Strategic Forum*, about the strategic situations in their respective countries. As well, both participated in a special briefing to the United States Congress in September, and then again to the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee on October 14, 1998.

The briefing to the Senate was held in the rarely-used Senate Treaty Room, the ornate and beautifully-decorated chamber used by the Senate to greet heads-of-state and special dignitaries.

It was at the Senate briefing that Prince Ermias repeated the offer — initially made at *Strategy'98* — for the Crown Council to act as a mediating, or conflict resolution, body for the Ethiopia-Eritrea dispute. At the time, Prince Ermias warned that not only would the conflict worsen if not resolved, it would also create animosities within the Ethiopian family of nations which would take generations to heal.

Neither party to the conflict was, at that time, disposed to consider a resolution to the conflict which did indeed worsen.

King Kigeli also discussed, at the conference, the seemingly intractable civil war situation in his country. Discussions are now underway to try to get the King's return to Rwanda by modifying the colonial constitution (left to the state by the Belgians) to allow his return, where he is seen as the only national unifying figure capable of bringing about reconciliation between the three major groups in Rwanda: the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa.

The ISSA Awards automatically invested both leaders as Life Members of the prestigious association, which is involved in global conflict resolution studies. ★

Ethiopia Must Unify to Meet the Great Challenge To Its Survival

Continued from Page One

"Ethiopia must return to its traditional unifying symbol, the Crown," Prince Ermias said. "The Crown can and will work with the elected representatives of Ethiopia's civil administration to ensure that the pride and traditional strengths of our country are restored. The Crown is ready now to work with all Ethiopian civil, military and religious institutions to help strengthen the unity of the State in the face of the most serious threats which now challenge our very survival."

Prince Ermias, along with the International Strategic Studies Association (ISSA), a Washington-based

international NGO, had in October 1998 offered to help mediate a peaceful end to Asmara's dispute with Ethiopia. "It now seems clear that neither side wished to negotiate an end to the conflict," the Prince said, "so today we must do all we can to bolster the unity of Ethiopia in order to stave off any threats to the integrity of the State."

"The continued unity and stability of Ethiopia is vital to the security of the region, to the stable flow of Nile waters to Sudan and Egypt, to the security of the Red Sea sea lanes, and to the overall Middle Eastern peace process."

"Any aggressors threatening

Ethiopia should know that the Crown, with its considerable support among the population of the State and with its widespread international connections, will help rally the defenses of the nation. At the same time, we will continue to fight for the human rights and prosperity of all the inhabitants of Ethiopia, and for the peace and security of the entire region." ★

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is on Page Seven.**

US Congressional Call To Restore Crown

Continued from Page Two

"Hence, there is no humanitarian catastrophe to attract our attention. Hence, I repeat, why should we care?"

"The reason we should pay close attention to the mounting crisis and escalating war is the vital strategic importance of the Horn of Africa to the United States and its close allies. The geo-strategic position of Ethiopia is central to several mega-dynamics stretching all the way from the Middle East to East Africa. Thus, the impact of instability and war reverberates directly to the heart of such areas commonly accepted as vital interests of the United States as Israel or the oil producing states of the Persian Gulf. Here are several major strategic factors in the region, demonstrating its great importance to the security interests of the United States."

"1. The security of the Red Sea/Suez Canal Sea Lane of Communication (SLOC), which vitally affects East-West trade (not just the oil trade) between Europe and Asia, including particularly Japan and Australia. Within this context, the ability of Israel and Jordan to maintain adequate maritime access to the Red Sea (and therefore world trade) is significant."

"2. The containment of the spread of Islamist radicalism and terrorism—a process currently sponsored by Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) Government with the assistance of Iran. The

Ethiopia, is of crucial importance to the national security of the United States. We must care and worry about the escalation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea war and the Sudan-sponsored Islamist forces exploiting it. This position is shared by the Ethiopian Crown Council. In my previous comments, I urged that we help reinforce the position of Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, who is attempting to restore a policy of unity and moderation on Ethiopia and the region. Recently, Prince Ermias has written an excellent analysis of the crisis for the *Defense & Foreign Affairs: Strategic Policy*, the journal of the respected International Strategic Studies Association. In this overview, he urges that we see the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict in the context of the broader regional strategic situation, to ensure the radicalization of the region. Prince Ermias stresses the dire ramifications of the deteriorating situation in Ethiopia."

"What we see now [in Ethiopia] is far less democracy and opportunity and prosperity than was being created under the Constitutional Monarchy of Haile Selassie. What we are witnessing today is a society led by people who arrived on the scene by accident; who are mired in divisive, petty squabbling. The result is that the region is divided and at risk. And the risk is one shared by the entire world: a further breakdown in the region could lead to the collapse of the pivotal powers, and a total disruption of the trade routes and the Middle Eastern oil trade. But worse than this, by not seeing the Ethiopia-Eritrea dispute in the broader context and acting accordingly, the world may be condemning the peoples of the region, including those of Egypt and North Africa, Arabia and the Northern Tier, to many more years of despair."

"I share the view and the anguish. I add that the strategic posture of the United States is adversely affected by the reverberations from, and impact of, the continued war in the Horn of Africa. This is why we should not only pay attention to events there, but also act to bring an end to the war. However, any negotiated settlement that would leave the regional strategic posture unchanged would only be a short term and temporary solution. Ultimately, it is imperative that long-term solutions are attained — nation building and economic revitalization under condition conducive for flow of private funds, not just hand outs of humanitarian assistance."

"What makes the situation in the Horn of Africa so unique is that there is no need for a US military intervention in order to establish such stability. There are indigenous forces in Ethiopia that, if properly supported, can help their own country and the entire region. I'm talking about the Ethiopian Crown Council. Constitutional monarchy, as was the case in the days of Emperor Haile Selassie, provides the best opportunity for Ethiopia. Mr Speaker, it is clear that in Prince Ermias we have someone who understands, and can help stabilize the entire Horn of Africa. The situation is now becoming critical, and we must find ways to support him in the process of reunifying Ethiopia, which cannot be allowed to be dismembered, and in helping to bring about regional reconciliation — thus protecting and furthering national security interests of the United States and its close allies."

የፖለቲካ እሥረኞችን ይፈቱ!

Free All Our Political Prisoners



Crown Issues Medal to Mark Menelik's Victory at Adwa

THE CROWN Council in 1996 struck a special medal to commemorate the great military victory which Emperor Menelik II won over the invading Italian forces a century before, in March 1896. This month, the Crown Council authorized the issuance of an additional number of the medals, to mark the 103rd anniversary of the Victory.

This time, however, there will be some subtle changes in the special "Adwa Medal."

The first issuance of the Medal, in 1996, went to prominent Ethiopians — many of whom could not be named because of the fear at the time of political reprisal within Ethiopia — and to a list of major national leaders around the world, particularly including leaders in Africa and the Caribbean.

The original Adwa Medal is shown above, in its two forms: the Medal with Royal Riband (left), and the Medal with Diplomatic Riband (right). The front (obverse) and reverse of the medal in both instances is the same. The Royal Riband is a deep purple, with gold stripes at the side; the Diplomatic Riband is in the Ethiopian colors of red, yellow and green, with a black stripe down the center.

The obverse features a profile of Emperor Menelik, with the words "One Hundred Anniversary of the Battle of Adwa, March 2, 1896," in English. The reverse features and Imperial Ethiopian Lion, facing left, with the inscription in Amharic and the date in the Ethiopian calendar.

A device — heraldically known as a

"bezant" — is fixed to the center of the riband of the two forms of the Award, on which is the Imperial Ethiopian Lion, again facing to the left.

The Imperial Lion was placed facing Left on the original form of the medal to signify that the Crown was in Exile and that the Ethiopian people were in distress. The new issuance of the Adwa Medal will show the Lion facing to the Right, to honor the dead and wounded of the current conflict and to show that they — with the Crown and the Ethiopian People — are once again united in their determination to restore Ethiopia's greatness and progress, and the fact that the Crown is now, once again, on the march with the People.

The new Adwa Medal is being struck for the Crown by Bezant, the Official Maker of Orders, Decorations and Medals for the Crown Council.

Ethiopians to be Recognized

The Crown Council has said that it will soon issue the names of the first group of Ethiopians who would be recognized by the Award of the new Adwa Medal.



The Victory of Adwa medals are usually presented by the President of the Imperial Crown Council, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie; or by the Viceroy (*Enderassé አንደራሳ*), His Imperial Highness Prince Bekere Fikre-Selassie, pictured above, a great-grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie I, and grandson of Emperor Amha Selassie I.

Recipients of the new Awards of the Adwa Medal will be announced in the next *Negarit*. ★

Crown Council Starts Website to Aid Worldwide Communications to Ethiopians

THE CROWN Council of Ethiopia has created a website on the world-wide web (www, or internet) to broadcast news and background about Ethiopia and the position of the Crown. The new website address (or url) is: www.EthiopianCrown.org.

An initial "holding page" on this website address has, for the past two months, been advising viewers that the Crown Council website is being built and would be fully loaded soon. The holding page described the Council's activities in basic terms, and gave callers an email address to contact the Crown Council: CrownCncl@aol.com

Now, the final preparations and testing are being done on the new website, which will include all recent Crown Council press statements and proclamations. The site will also include details of the history of the Throne of Solomon, the composition and charter of the Crown Council, pictures of the late Emperors and members of the Imperial Family, and details of such news as the Educational Scholarships which the Crown Council is sponsoring.

As well, it will contain news and details of the Crown's charities, such as the Haile Selassie I Fund for Ethiopia's Children and the restoration of Holy Trinity cathedral, and details of support organizations for the Crown, such as the Imperial Society of St. George of Lalibela.

It is planned that the website will also soon include a regular "radio broadcast": an audio component which will enable callers to click onto a broadcast message in Amharic from a member of the Crown Council, giving current news and views on matters affecting Ethiopia and Ethiopians.

The Council believes that the website will be one of the most effective ways of instantly communicating news to followers around the world. The system will supplement the Crown's growing use of email, mail, the media and personal visits to let Ethiopians know what is happening, and how the Crown is fighting for Ethiopia's unity and future.

Once the new site is fully operational, it will be registered with the major internet search engines so that anyone searching for news on Ethiopia or the Crown will easily be directed to the Council website.

Parts of *Negarit* will appear online in the new service. This will enable readers to receive updates in between the print editions of the newspaper.

As well, the Crown Council website will be "hotlinked" to other Ethiopian websites, enabling callers to move freely among Ethiopian-related internet news resources. ★

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Adwa's Anniversary is a Reminder of the Joy of Unity and Sovereignty

The President of the Ethiopian Crown Council, Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, this month issued the Council's statement on the 103rd anniversary of the Battle of Adwa. It was, however, a solemn message, cautioning Ethiopians that the recent military conflict with Eritrea may be only the start of the process toward strengthening national unity, necessary to meet the threats facing the country.

The full text of the statement is as follows:

WASHINGTON DC, March 2, 1999: — The 103rd Anniversary today of the Victory of the Battle of Adwa, in which united Ethiopian forces under Emperor Menelik II resoundingly defeated the invading Italian Army in 1896, has brought a call from the Ethiopian Crown to all people in the greater Ethiopian community to pause and think of the benefits of unity and peace.

In a special statement to mark the anniversary, the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie said: "At this extremely unsettled time in Ethiopia's history, we need to reflect on the great benefit my late kinsman and our great Emperor, Menelik II, brought to Ethiopia when he united the nation in 1896 to defeat the Italian invaders."

"That unity has in recent years been threatened by policies which have divided our nation, and caused Ethiopians to fight among themselves, risking the very structure and sovereignty of our Empire in the process. The present war within the Ethiopian family should never have occurred; it should never have been necessary. It has been the result of petty regionalism, in which the desire for power has led people to split off parts of our country, or attempt to do so."

"We may be thankful that the present war may be coming to a close, but it has cost the Ethiopian community of peoples most dearly. Tens of thousands of families are mourning the deaths or mutilation of their young sons when they should not have had to do so. Many more thousands of Ethiopians — and I speak here of the broader Ethiopian family — have been displaced from their homes by years of communal rivalry."

"But the war has not ended, and will not end merely when the fighting stops. The hatred and rivalry which this totally preventable war has created will take generations to

heal. The Victory of the Battle of Adwa healed the nation after the internal squabbles which had preceded Emperor Menelik's rise to the Throne. The battles of today have brought some of the peoples of Ethiopia together, at a greater human cost than Adwa, but they have also left a legacy of hatred which we must now overcome."

"All of this has distracted us from the path of unity, strength, economic growth, peace and stability. And while we have been distracted, we have seen others in the region attempt to sow the seeds of ethnic and religious discord among Ethiopians."

"There are those outside our country who have attempted to introduce radical Islamism to Ethiopian Muslims, who are a pillar of Ethiopian society, and to induce them into trying to break up Ethiopia. This will not work. Ethiopians are Ethiopians: the differences in the various peoples of our nation are a cause for celebration, and not for division. And the religious beliefs of Ethiopians are their own private concern; this does not affect their Ethiopianness."

"Today, we mourn the dead and injured of all branches of the Ethiopian family in the current war, and thank them profoundly for the sacrifice to the cause of Ethiopian unity."

"Today, we should also remember the great valor and sacrifice of Emperor Menelik and the Ethiopians of 1896, who laid the foundations for the great achievements of Emperor Haile Selassie until 1974."

"The coup of 1974 caused a great upheaval in Ethiopia's progress. We have not yet recovered from this, and the division of our country in 1993 and the subsequent communal divisions in Ethiopia have only prolonged the restoration of true national unity. Think how great Ethiopia would have been today if the coup had not occurred, and if the 1974 Constitution had been implemented and if there had been no civil war, no brutal geno-

cide, and no communism."

"The possible end to the current fighting is not a signal for Ethiopians to relax. This war should serve merely as a warning that we must now begin the process of true unification, with the restoration of Ethiopia's 3,000 years of tradition. Now we must truly come together to rebuild Ethiopia and return to the path of economic, social and democratic progress. The Ethiopian Crown is committed to this, and will never walk away from this historic challenge and duty."

"The war has demonstrated that Ethiopians cherish their nation and its unity and that they have not forgotten how to sacrifice for the salvation of their kinsmen. We must honor their sacrifice and redouble our efforts to rebuild our beloved country." ★



His Imperial Majesty Emperor Amha Selassie, who formed *Moa Anbessa* (see below) as a support organization for the Ethiopian Crown, also restructured the present Crown Council under Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie to help restore the Crown in Ethiopia.

Moa Anbessa Is Freed by Crown to Enter the Political Arena

THE ORGANIZATION, *Moa Anbessa: Ethiopians for a Constitutional Monarchy*, has been formally separated from the Ethiopian Crown, which helped bring it to life, so that it can become an independent political party inside and outside Ethiopia. *Moa Anbessa* — the Conquering Lion — was formed by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Amha Selassie I as a support organization for the Crown.

A Crown Council Proclamation (ዓ.ዓ.ደ. ፩) of June 3, 1998, (ሰ. ፱ ቀን: ፲፱፻፲፯ ዓ.ም.) set the stage by announcing the Crown's decision to bring about the separation, noting: "Whereas His Imperial Majesty Emperor Amha Selassie I, of blessed memory, mindful in exile of the importance of providing an organization which could link the Crown with all Ethiopians, promoted and encouraged the formation of *Moa Anbessa* as a mass membership body wherein all Ethiopians would be eligible to make their wishes known to the Crown;

"The Crown Council of Ethiopia (የኢትዮጵያ ዘወድ ምክር ቤት), upon which the affairs of the Crown now Constitutionally rest following the death of Emperor Amha Selassie I, mindful of the fact that our beloved Ethiopia is now facing military attack and political upheaval, and mindful of the fact that the

role of the Crown of Ethiopia is symbolic, unifying and healing for the peoples of Ethiopia, and should not be, or be seen to be, engaged in political activities, and yet mindful of the important role which *Moa Anbessa* can make to Ethiopia as a movement of our peoples concerned about the unity and sovereignty of the entire nation, Does Hereby Declare That:

"1. The Crown of Ethiopia hereby severs all formal links, and whatever influence and control with and over *Moa Anbessa* it may have in the past enjoyed, in order that *Moa Anbessa* be freed to pursue political and social goals on behalf of the peoples of Ethiopia, whether as a mass organization or as a political party, free to decide among its membership its charter and goals;

"2. The Crown of Ethiopia wishes to express its warmest thanks to the membership and executives of *Moa Anbessa* for their voluntary and spontaneous support for the Crown, and hopes that this support, understanding and dialog which has developed through *Moa Anbessa* toward and with the Crown be sustained forever into the future;

"3. The Crown of Ethiopia in particular recognizes the enormous creativity, drive and commitment of those members of *Moa Anbessa* who made the organization a viable and vibrant symbol of the Ethiopian people's ongoing familial bond with the Crown and the Throne of Solomon, and in this regard pays tribute to Dr Getachew Mekasha, the [Founding] President of *Moa Anbessa*, and those executives and members of the organization who remain in our beloved homeland, defending its traditions, symbols, way of life and our national freedom;

"4. The Crown of Ethiopia reaffirms that it is not linked with any individual political party of Ethiopia, or of any other country, in any way other than diplomatic, and except in the pursuit of the reaffirmation of the Crown's ongoing role as the symbol of leadership of all of the peoples of Ethiopia, and except and other than in the normal function of the relationship which all political parties and all peoples may have with their Sovereign, and the Sovereign with them."

Moa Anbessa, in a letter this month to members, noted:

"The Ethiopian Monarchy has played a significant role in the administration of the country over a long period of time. The Crown had united the country under one administration and made it internationally known. This has enabled the Crown to be identified with maintaining the nation's freedom, unity, equality, justice, the continuation of modernization, and the protector and guarantor of its sovereignty. The Crown as part of the people, has contributed its share in the social, cultural, and economic development of the nation."

"In the context of protecting the people and the nation, the Crown has defended the country from both external and internal enemies. It has also been victorious. In times of disagreements or conflicts arising from internal squabbles between differing ethnic groups or in matters of religious disputes the Crown has

played the role of peacemaker, and by taking the high ground was able to render a mediating role to facilitate an era of tranquility, peace and stability. It is for this reason that Ethiopia was able to defend its sovereignty, and continue on the path of modernization from one generation to the next."

"This is not to say that all those who occupied the throne were all faultless or forward looking. History will tell us that there were those Emperors who were not in touch with the people's needs or were not willing to advance with the times and as such were detrimental to the advancement of the nation."

"The fact that the reigns of certain Emperors were detrimental to the life of the nation does not necessarily negate the purpose or need for a constructive role for the monarchy. It is precisely for this reason that the current Crown Council having assessed trends and development within Ethiopia and internationally has proposed the introduction of a constitutional monarchy which would not supplant the elected government, but facilitate a nascent democracy to emerge."

"Under a constitutional monarchy, the monarchy will play its due historical role given to it by the constitution. Government with the responsibility of running the administration would then be electable through the people voting for an individual candidate or a single party that would be able to garner the largest amount of votes."

"*Moa Anbessa* and the supporters of the Monarchy, to make this feasible, have created a political party and have named it Ethiopians for Constitutional Monarchy. This political party will carry the following agendas:

"A. It will organize and lead all those supporters of the monarchy both inside and outside the country."

"B. It will educate people about the beneficial role of a constitutional monarchy in relevance to Ethiopia's unity, historical legacy and continuity, in protecting the country's sovereignty."

"C. It will create and implement these programs."

"D. It will research and put in place beneficial foundations that will enable Constitutional Monarchy to be feasible."

"The principal aim of Ethiopians for Constitutional Monarchy will be that Ethiopians will be able to freely choose through a referendum to reinstate the monarchy."

"Ethiopians for Constitutional Monarchy will from time to time create and formulate new programs."

"A. It will conduct diplomatic and propaganda programs."

"B. It will work along with other political parties that believe in the unity of Ethiopia, in the equality of its citizens and in the fundamental principle that all power emanates from the people."

"*Ethiopia reaches her hands unto God.*"

Moa Anbessa officials have now begun the process of re-registering members in the organization in its political form. It is anticipated that the party will soon reopen its offices in Addis Ababa and around the world. ★

Save Holy Trinity Cathedral

One of Ethiopia's treasured institutions of the modern era, the beautiful Holy Trinity Cathedral, is under threat from the ravages of time. It urgently needs a new roof and repairs to other parts of the structure and its decorations.

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